

bogs I live near have come to life. I look forward to hearing what new information she may discover about these natural wonders in the years to come.

Following Rebecca's trip to New York and multiple meetings with research scientists from the American Museum of Natural History, I hope she will return home and take advantage of these native surroundings by continuing to learn and build her skills as a writer and researcher.

Rebecca, congratulations again on this distinguished award. It is an honor to represent you in the U.S. Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK JEFFREY

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor John E. Jeffrey as he retires from an outstanding career of service to the people of Nevada.

I have known Jack since we were teenagers attending Basic High School in Henderson, NV. He is a talented electrician, a compassionate public servant, and a dedicated family man. Jack is also a friend.

Jack's public service began three decades ago, when he was elected to the Henderson City Council in 1971. Working to expand educational opportunity has been a central tenet of Jack's career. Fittingly, his first major accomplishment was to successfully negotiate with the Nevada State senate to acquire the first two buildings for the Henderson campus of Clark County Community College.

In 1975, Jack's influence expanded from City Hall to Carson City, when he was elected to the Nevada State Assembly by a margin of only six votes.

"We overspent," he said when told of the tiny bit of daylight between himself and his opponent. "We wasted money campaigning for the five votes I didn't need."

Jack's first of many reelections was won by a more comfortable 28-vote margin.

His 16 distinguished years in the Assembly include recognition as the Clark County Teachers Association's "Friend of Education," and the International Police Association's "Legislator of the Year."

Jack's Democratic colleagues respected him enough to elect him majority whip—a position close to my heart—in 1977, and then chose him as their majority floor leader in 1981.

Jack is proud to have been a tireless advocate for increasing special education funds while he was in the Assembly. He believes special needs students deserve a quality education too, and he worked to make sure there will be opportunities for them.

Since leaving the Assembly in 1991, Jack has continued to fight to improve the quality of life for working people in Nevada. He's been an active member of the International Brotherhood of Elec-

trical Workers Local 357 all his adult life, and understands the trials and tribulations of working men and women and their families. Jack has been an invaluable asset to Southern Nevada Central Labor Council and to the Southern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council, and earlier this month he was named "Consumer Advocate of the Year."

The working men and women in Nevada work in better and safer jobs because of Jack. In fact, all people in Nevada are better off because of Jack Jeffrey. I wish Jack and his wife, Betty, the very best in retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO JILL CHARLES

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to a woman of great dedication, compassion, and courage. Jill Charles, Artistic Director of the Dorset Theatre Festival and a Dorset, Vermont, resident, will long be remembered by those whose lives she touched as an accomplished artist, a loving mother, a giving mentor, and a dear friend.

It is our good fortune that Jill chose to bring her talent and love of theatre to Vermont. In 1968, she arrived in Dorset to work as an apprentice for Fred and Pat Carmichael's Caravan Theatre at the Dorset Playhouse. Subsequently, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in theatre from the University of Kentucky and was awarded a Master of Fine Arts degree in directing from Boston University. After the Carmichaels retired in 1976, Jill, with co-founder John Nassivera, established the Dorset Theatre Festival.

Jill was well known and highly respected for her work with young artists and for the guidance she provided for hundreds of pre-professional actors, designers and technicians who apprenticed under her direction during her twenty-six years as Dorset Theatre Festival Artistic Director. Her interest in the professional growth and emotional well-being of each member of the company was repeatedly reflected in her attention to matters large and small, and in countless acts of personal support and kindness.

A woman whose compassion and respect for others extended beyond her professional endeavors in the theatre, Jill was dedicated to her community and to the many humanitarian interests that she held dear. She was a dedicated foster parent for many years, and remained in contact with those children to whom she provided a home. She also was actively involved with the Second Chance Animal Shelter in Bennington, Project Pave (a support group for abused women), Race for the Cure, and the Dorset Congregational Church choir. She was also a founding member of the Cantare a capella singing group in Dorset.

The arts and humanities are a powerful force in bringing us together, in

stretching our horizons, and in improving the quality of our lives. Jill Charles embodied the gifts of the arts and humanities. She will be greatly missed, but her presence will continue to be felt as her touch ripples outward like the action of a pebble tossed in a pond.●

TRIBUTE TO VALDON JOHNSON

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Valdon Johnson is a retired Assistant Professor of English, now Emeritus Professor of English, from the University of Northern Iowa and currently is a regular volunteer in my Waterloo Regional office.

Although Valdon's father died when Valdon was about 7, his mother had remarried about 5 years later. Valdon began his college career at Iowa State Teachers College, now the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) in 1950. His studies were suspended while he served in the Navy. He received his B.A. in English in 1958 and an M.A. in English in 1959. His first teaching position was with Webster City Junior College, now Iowa Central Community College. In 1962, Valdon received a Fulbright Award to teach English as a foreign language in Japan before returning to UNI in 1968, where for 26 years, he taught Linguistics and Humanities.

Valdon's first day in my office was September 23, 1994, his next was November 6, 1995. During the in-between time of about 13.5 months he recovered from a stroke that left him unable to talk. Notwithstanding the stroke, he volunteered one to two days per week since. Valdon continues his other interests, which include the Masons and in traveling to the United Kingdom about every year, music (piano & organ), calligraphy, stenotype theory, handwriting analysis and religious history.

Although Valdon is unable to answer the phone, he does help with case work letter preparation, news paper clipping, filing and calligraphy. For over 7 years he has been a faithful, always on time volunteer and has been of invaluable assistance.

Valdon will celebrate his 69th birthday on August 15. I want to use this occasion to say "happy birthday" Valdon. And to say thanks for all you have done for me and for the people of Iowa.●

THE PASSING OF PATRICK MCKERNAN

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to make a few remarks concerning the recent passing of New Mexico's Patrick McKernan. Patrick McKernan recently passed away at the age of 60 due to complications of cancer. He is survived by his seven children and wife. McKernan, who has been deemed by many as "Mr. Baseball" was best known in New Mexico for his management of the Albuquerque Dukes AAA baseball team.